AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A system for predicting a target file directory, comprising:

a first component that infers and/or determines expected navigation costs for directory operations associated with potential target directories, ~~wherein~~ the expected navigation cost is based on a probabilistic and/or utility analysis; and

a second component that outputs a subset of the potential target directories, ~~wherein~~ the subset is determined by selecting target directories, based in part on the expected navigation cost, in order to minimize a cost of traversing directories.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the utilities are functions of navigation costs associated with traversing from a node associated with a potential target directory under consideration to at least one of the other potential target directories.

4. (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the second component further determines the subset of directories based on expected utilities, which are computed as functions of probabilities of target information being at a node, and the navigation costs associated with traversing from the node to at least one of the potential target directories.

5. (Currently amended): The system of claim 3, ~~wherein~~ the navigation costs are assigned by at least one of user selections and encoded within the system.

6. (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the potential target directories are determined from at least one of a local computer system and a remote computer system.

7. (Currently amended): The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the probabilities are a function of recent and long-term file activity within a directory.

8. (Currently amended): The system of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ the long term file activity is determined from a predetermined time horizon.

9. (Currently amended): The system of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ the recent file activity is determined from frequency of access to a file.

10. (Original): The system of claim 9, further comprising a background monitor to determine file access frequency.

11. (Original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a list scan penalty for reducing probabilities associated with scanning lists within a directory.

12. (Currently amended): The system of claim 8, ~~wherein~~ the list scan penalty is determined as an exponential function that decreases as the number of elements on the list increases.

13. (Previously presented): A method for determining a potential target node for directory operations, comprising:

assigning probabilities and utilities to a plurality of potential target nodes, the utilities represent costs associated with navigating from a recommended node to an actual target node;

determining an expected utility from the probabilities and utilities associated with the plurality of target nodes; and

displaying a candidate list of likely nodes to a user based upon the expected utility.

14. (Previously presented): The method of claim 13, further comprising multiplying the assigned probabilities and utilities together to form a product at each of the plurality of target nodes.

15. (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising summing the products from each of the plurality of target nodes together to determine the expected utility for one of the plurality of potential target nodes.

16. (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, ~~wherein~~ the utilities are related to navigation costs associated with traversing from a displayed directory to at least one of the potential target directories.

17. (Currently amended): The method of claim 16, ~~wherein~~ the navigation costs are assigned by at least one of user selections and encoded within the system.

18. (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, ~~wherein~~ the potential target nodes are determined from at least one of a local computer system and a remote computer system.

19. (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, ~~wherein~~ the probabilities are a function of recent and long-term file activity within a directory.

20. (Currently amended): The method of claim 19, ~~wherein~~ the long-term file activity is determined from a predetermined time horizon.

21. (Currently amended): The method of claim 19, ~~wherein~~ the recent file activity is determined from frequency of access to a file.

22. (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising,

monitoring a user to determine file access frequency.

23. (Original): The method of claim 13, further comprising,

determining a list scan penalty for reducing probabilities associated with scanning lists within a directory.

24. (Currently amended): The method of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ the list scan penalty is determined as an exponential function that decreases as the number of elements on the list increases.

25. (Original): A computer-readable medium storing the computer-executable component of claim 1.

26. (Previously presented): A system for determining a potential target node for directory operations, comprising:

means for assigning probabilities and utilities to a plurality of potential target nodes;

means for determining an expected utility from the probabilities and utilities associated with the plurality of target nodes; and

means for displaying a candidate list of likely nodes to a user based upon the expected utility, the candidate list comprises a subset of the potential target nodes.

27. (Currently amended): A signal adapted to be transmitted between at least two processes, comprising:

a component that infers and/or determines suitable target directories for storing and/or accessing data based on a probabilistic and/or utility based analysis; and

an output component that outputs a subset of the suitable target directories, ~~wherein~~ the subset is determined based in part on a minimized cost of directory traversal analysis.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended): The signal of claim 27, ~~wherein~~ the suitable target directories are determined from at least one of a local computer system and a remote computer system.

30. (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, the second component outputs the subset of directories as tree fragments.

31. (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, the subset comprises N potential target directories, N is an integer that is predefined.

32. (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, the subset comprises directories with expected navigation costs below a predetermined level.

33. (Previously presented): The method of claim 13, displaying the candidate list in descending order from highest expected utility.

34. (Previously presented): The method of claim 15, further comprising removing a potential target node with a maximum expected utility from consideration when evaluating expected utility for the other potential target nodes.